



Grass Cuttings

Newsletter of Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society

January 2013

Chairman's Report

Hello again,
I hope you have had a pleasant Christmas & New Year despite the depressing wet weather.

Reviewing our past year 2012, not a lot to complement it, mixed seasons at mainly the wrong time, confused nature's growing criteria; not too cold a winter did not reduce our damaging pests, then brief early warmth invited the bees & other pollinators to hatch prior to food/blossom being available causing a high rate of mortality, so when our blossom did finally arrive there were few pollinators around, hence disappointing poor plum, apple & pear crops.

The cold wet spring also caused poor vegetable germination, my third try with carrots, beetroot and peas was finally successful but quite late. It makes me laugh when the media keeps telling us that 2012 has been a very wet year; don't we know it!! Most of Carlton Road residents together with our ploholders on that side have been waterlogged or flooded for the past 4 months.

I have been in close discussions with Trafford Council and the Environment Agency (EA) for them to try and improve the drainage both in the Carlton Road back gardens and our allotments. Trafford have used their large sucker lorry to suck out large amounts of silt from the main buried pipe at Glebelands Road end. The main problem now appears to be through the fields leading to the outflow into the Mersey, which hopefully will be attended to by EA in January 2013. We have to thank Councillor Brian Rigby for the pressure he has applied to finally get some action and we must also complement the patience of our affected ploholders. We have our own waterlog/flooding problems, but we must not forget these are minor compared to the experiences of other areas of the UK.

As previously reported plot no 30 is now a community plot growing fruit, we have a small team of volunteers led by Brian Eyden who will now start to prune & keep it productive and tidy. Lets look forward hopefully to a warmer, drier and a better 2013

Regards, Don

Committee contacts

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Plot 36		
Elaine Watson	Trading Hut	962 9684
Plot 43a		
David Taylor	Equipment	973 0867
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Jane Lucas	Newsletter	973 9704
Plot 39a		
SHAS Website www.shas.org		

AGM

Tuesday 5th March

St Mary's Church
Moss Lane
Sale

7.30pm

Please come along and support your committee

News from the Trading Hut

On behalf of SHAS we would like to say a thank you and fond farewell to Alf Edwards who has retired as Trading Hut Manager. From January 2013 the new Trading Hut Manager will be Elaine Watson.



Many of you will recognise Elaine (Plot 43a) who has been a plot holder for 26 years. As well as enjoying time on her allotment Elaine also volunteers in the garden at Arley Hall.

For those people who kindly volunteer to help in the Trading Hut a new rota list is included with this newsletter. Additional volunteers are always welcome so if you do have a spare couple of hours on a Sunday morning please contact Elaine, your help will be welcomed.

Trading Hut Open

Sunday 3rd February
10.30am – 12 noon

Seed Potatoes

1st Earlies – Arran Pilot
2nd Earlies – Charlotte
Main Crops – Desiree and Cara

Onion Sets

Sturon
Red Baron

(pre-packs of 50)

Shallots

Golden Gourmet

(pre-packs of 50)

Prices will be calculated on delivery. The terrible weather has affected the seed potato harvest and some varieties may be in short supply.

Plot Rentals and Membership Renewals News

It's that time of year again, and with this newsletter you should have received your renewal form(s) for SHAS Membership and Plot Rentals, as appropriate.

If you haven't received them, please call me on 0161 283 0783.

Will Plot Holders please note the **final** date for receipt of Rental Payment and signed Tenancy Agreements is **28th February 2013**. This is necessary, as the terms of our lease require us to send full payment and plot holder details to Trafford Council by the end of March. **So don't delay, please reply today!!**

One final request, please ensure cheques are made out to SHAS, dated 2013 and signed!

Tony Turnbull

October Talk by Jacqui Brocklehurst

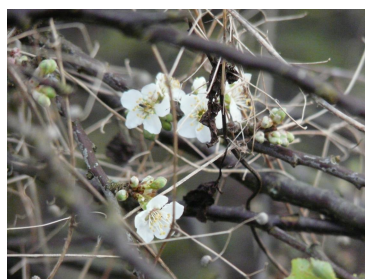
Jacqui's presentation to members and their friends was entertaining and colourful as well as informative. Having plot 4 on our site Jacqui is especially interested in herbs and vegetables. She has a wide knowledge of the uses, both culinary and medicinal, of all the common herbs, and others not so well known. Her creativity comes in the display of plants and design of gardens and also in her salad bowl!

We learned some of the trials show gardeners at Tatton are subjected to; of overcoming hot prolonged sunshine (sun hats for plants) and then unending downpours and quagmires. The judging of such efforts is meticulous and any medal awarded is richly deserved.

General

Unfortunately we were not able to proceed with the Pumpkin Party in October. We would like to continue the tradition of holding a social get-together for our plotheolders, perhaps during the warmer months. If anybody has any ideas please chat to a committee member!

Can we please request that any dogs visiting the allotment are on a short lead/kept under control and owners remove any 'deposits' they may leave.



Early signs of spring on the Community Plot – 6th January 2013